

## **ENGLISH LITERATURE (Course Code EI)**

**Head of Department: Miss M B Brooke, MA, LLAM**

### **Minimum course entry requirements**

Grade 7 in GCSE English Language **or** English Literature

Students wishing to start their Sixth Form studies in September 2018 will follow the AQA A specification for A Level English Literature.

### **A level study**

English Literature is a most stimulating and enriching subject to study at A level. The course aims to encourage an enjoyment and appreciation of English literature based on an informed personal opinion. While acquiring knowledge and understanding of the texts being studied, students develop the ability to recognise and analyse literary effects, to comment precisely on the use of language and consequently increase their capacity to make judgements of value based on close reading. During the course, students will inevitably develop their own ability to communicate effectively and appropriately in both speech and writing, a key skill increasingly demanded by universities and employers. It can also provide a breadth of study for a student specialising in the sciences. This qualification is usually needed by those who wish to study English Literature at degree level.

### **Examination**

The A level is awarded after two years. No units are examined during the course; all assessment will be linear. Assessment consists of a combination of timed examinations with one unit of coursework. Students are required to study a minimum of eight texts, although many more are usually read for extension and enrichment. The set texts are grouped according to historical period, genre or topic. Students will be studying texts focused on Shakespeare, Love through the Ages and, finally, World War 1 and its Aftermath. Many students like to deepen their knowledge and appreciation of literature further by attending an advanced reading group.

The department has had a consistent history of success and is confident that this will continue. The average score for A\*/B grades over the last eight years, since the implementation of the A\* for the A Level, is 84.7%. Students regularly gain places at top universities to read English Literature and related subjects.

### **University subjects**

As well as providing an opportunity to study English and other languages at university, English Literature A level provides access to courses on Law, Politics, Philosophy and Economics, PE, Psychology, Accountancy and Business Studies, Art and Design and other creative or performing arts.

### **Careers and prospects**

A level English can lead to a wide variety of careers. It is a recognised preparation for careers in administration and management in industry, finance and government, both national and local. It is of major significance for the communications industries such as journalism, advertising and, of course, broadcasting. The subject is also regarded as excellent preparation for those who intend to take up professions in the creative and plastic arts, or the theatre, whether as a designer, a producer, a theatre manager, a film editor or an actor. If you are thinking of any career in which you deal with people, such as physiotherapy, nursing, social work or business, then English Literature can be a valuable component of your 16+ course.

(November 2017)